APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/705,718	11/10/2003	Tetsuo Seto	003797.00711	5005

28319   7590   07/25/2007

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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2173	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
07/25/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *16 May 2007*.

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) *1-25* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) *1-25* is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Request for Continued Examination

This Office action is responsive to the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed

under 37 CFR §1.53(d) for the instant application on 05/16/07. Applicants have properly set

forth the RCE, which has been entered into the application, and an examination on the merits

follows herewith.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

> Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or
> any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and
> requirements of this title.

Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed

to non-statutory subject matter. A tool for associating characters non-statutory is not qualified

for useful process and machine. The tool is not apparatus, it is a program per se. The

specification expressly teaches that a tool for associating characters according to the invention

may be implemented by a programmable computer .(see, e.g.; paragraph 31). Therefore, the

claimed features of claims 1 and 11 are actually a software, or at best, directed to an arrangement

of software, and software claimed by itself, without being executed or implemented on a

computer medium, is intangible.

To expedite a complete examination of the instant application, the claims rejected under

35U.S.C. 101 (nonstatutory) above are further rejected as set forth below in anticipation of the

applicant amending these claims to place them within the four statutory categories of invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the

claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various

claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any

evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out

the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later

invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c)

and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murphy (US

Patent Publication No. 2003/0197736) in view of Shulman et al. (US Patent No. 6,311,323).

Regarding claims 1 and 21, Murphy discloses a tool for associating characters,

comprising: a segmentation module that associates two or more characters into a segment (see

page 4, par. 0039-0040; and a user interface that allows a user to designate the segmentation of

characters by the segmentation module, the user interface displaying a plurality of characters (see

page 4, par. 0041-0042); however, Murphy fails to explicitly teach providing an indicator

indicating which of the plurality of characters are associated together into the segment.

Shulman teaches providing an indicator indicating which of the plurality of characters are

associated together into the segment (see col. 7, lines 40-61). It would have been obvious to one

of an ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Murphy and Shulman before him at the time the invention was made, to modify user interface for character entry to include computer programming language statement building and information tool, as taught by Shulman. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order in order to provide a word segmentation refers to the process of identifying individual words or characters that conversion an expression of languages or characters in a segmentation module.

Regarding claims 3 and 13, Murphy discloses wherein the indicator can be modified by a user to change which characters are associated together into the segment (see page 2, par. 0022-0023).

Regarding claims 4 and 14, Shulman discloses where the indicator appears as a bar running adjacent to characters associated together into the segment; and the user can extend the bar to add characters to the segment (see col. 7, lines 40-60 and col. 8, lines 10-25). One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order in order to provide a word segmentation refers to the process of identifying individual words or characters that conversion an expression of languages or characters in a segmentation module.

Regarding claims 5 and 15, Murphy discloses wherein the indicator appears as a bar running adjacent to characters associated together into a segment; and the user can contract the bar to remove characters from the segment (see page 7, par. 0077-0078).

Regarding claims 6 and 16, Murphy discloses wherein the user interface provides a menu command that allows a user to designate the segmentation of characters by the segmentation module (see page 7, par. 0070-0073).

Regarding claims 7 and 17, Shulman discloses wherein the user interface displays a second indicator indicating which of the plurality of characters associated together into a second segment (see col. 8, lines 26-52 and figures 2-3).

Regarding claims 8 and 18, Murphy discloses wherein the user interface displays a plurality of characters on two or more lines; and provides an indicator that can be modified by a user to change associate one or more of the characters on different lines together into the segment (see page 9, par. 0092-0094).

Regarding claims 9 and 19, Murphy discloses wherein the user interface provides a menu command that allows a user to designate the segmentation of characters by the segmentation module (see figures 1-3C).

Regarding claims 10 and 20, Murphy discloses further comprising an electronic ink recognition module for recognizing at least one of the characters from electronic ink (see page 4, par. 0045-0046).

Claim 11, differs from claim 1 in that "providing an indicator indicating which of the plurality of characters are associated together into the segment; and a character conversion module that converts the characters of the segment into at least one character of the second type" as recited in Shulman (see col. 16, lines 13-59). One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order in order to provide a word segmentation refers to the process of identifying individual words or characters that conversion an expression of languages or characters in a segmentation module.

Regarding claim 22, Murphy discloses receiving input from a user modifying the indicator to associate a second group of the plurality of characters into the segment (see page 4, par. 0042-0043).

Regarding claim 23, Murphy discloses wherein the second group includes the first group and additional characters (see page 4, par. 0044-0045).

Regarding claim 24, Shulman discloses wherein the indicator is a bar adjacent to the first group of characters; and the input changes a length or position of the bar so that the bar is adjacent to the second group of characters (see figures 5-8).

Regarding claim 25, Murphy discloses further including displaying the first group of characters on a first line; displaying a first portion of the second group of characters on the first line; displaying a second portion of the second group of characters on a second line; and receiving input that modifies the indicator to extend from the first line to the second line (see figures 1-4).
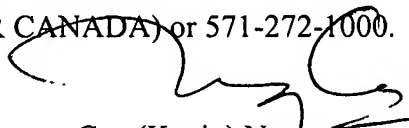
Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure (see PTO-892).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cao (Kevin) Nguyen whose telephone number is (571)272-4053. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (571)272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would

like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated

information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Cao (Kevin) Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2173

07/19/07